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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Programme budget implications of the draft decision entitled "Documentation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations" submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, as contained in E/1996/L.57

Documentation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

1. Under the terms of draft decision E/1996/L.57, the Economic and Social Council would:

> "Affirm that the documentation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should be issued in all six official languages of the Council, and request the Secretariat to prepare for the Council at its organizational session for 1997 an assessment of ways to implement this decision within existing resources."

2. It is recalled that an oral statement of programme budget implications was read at the Council at the time of its review of draft decision III contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1996/102) whereby the Council would approve the issuance of the Committee's documentation in the six official languages of the Council. The statement indicated that such a draft decision would entail additional conference services in 1997 estimated at full cost in the amount of $860,700.

3. The statement also indicated that "in adopting the programme budget for 1996-1997, the General Assembly decided that savings of $103.9 million were to be achieved during the biennium. Under the circumstances, it will not be possible at this stage to accommodate the above-mentioned additional conference-servicing requirements from within the resources budgeted under subsection 26E, Conference Services. The possibility of accommodating these additional requirements of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will be reviewed by the General Assembly at its current session."

4. The programme budget implications read to the Council in relation with draft decision III of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations apply also to the above-mentioned draft decision contained in document E/1996/L.57.

5. In this connection, it should be further noted that the responsibility for determining the level of resources under the programme is within the purview of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly and the existing budgetary process established by the General Assembly in resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, and reconfirmed by the General Assembly in resolution 45/248 B, section VI, whereby the Assembly (i) reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters; (ii) reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; (iii) expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters; and (iv) invited the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

6. As stated earlier, the possibility of accommodating the additional documentation requirements of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will be reviewed by the General Assembly at its current session. The Economic and Social Council will be informed at its organizational session for 1997 of any action taken by the General Assembly in this regard.